

In-Fur-Nation

And the ConFurence Chronicle

Volume 2 Number 3

All The News We Get, We Print!

November, 1992

Summer comes, Summer goes...

A sad announcement. Deal Whitley, anthropomorphic artist and writer, died at the age of 34 on August 30th, 1992, of congestive heart failure. Deal was the creator, writer, and artist of *High Orbit* (as seen in *Albedo*), *Opporlockitytoons* (as seen recently in *Zu*), and numerous other fan projects. He was at work on several projects at the time of his death. His passing was mourned by furry fan across the country. A portfolio of Deal's art is a possibility for the future.

ConFurence 4 plans some special events to remember Deal by. Please read about them in the ConFurence Progress Report below.

Charles "Deal" Whitley, 1956—1992

On a happier note, the second book of the Mage Winds series by ConFurence 4 GOH Mercedes Lackey, *Winds of Change*, has hit the stands in hardcover from DAW Books. The massive book features numerous black-and-white illustrations by ConFurence 4 GOH Larry Dixon.

Nickelodeon formally announced in late September that John Kridfalusi, producer, director, and co-creator of *The Ren & Stimpy Show*, has been removed from that show. The stated reason is that delivery deadlines were not being met. Bob Camp, Kridfalusi's former partner in Spumco (the studio which produced *Ren & Stimpy*) has been named as the new head of production. Nickelodeon is currently attempting to create its own studio (headed by Camp) to complete the remaining episodes for this season.

Also of note is the new *Ren & Stimpy* comic book out from Marvel, with none other than Mike Kazaleh as artist.

A new furry BBS has become available in the mid-west, called (wait for it...) *Furry BBS*. The number is (419) 35-FURRY, and the sysop is Scott Gutarie of Bowling Green, Ohio. Call the board for more information.

Catseye Agency, illustrated by Darren Frydendall and written by ConFurence's own Jim Lomax, recently hit the stands from Rip Off Press. This "cyberpunk soap opera" involves a group of humans and furies battling against sinister slave rings. Look for it at a comic shop near you. Issues #1 and #2 are now available.

Speaking of which, writer Jim Lomax will be offering *Catseye Agency* portfolios at ConFurence Four next January, featuring art by Darren Frydendall, Kyla Littlejohn, and Masato Takahashi.

New stuff on the horizon from our old friends at MU Press includes *Furkindred Magazine #2: Renewal of Porpoise*, *Critturs: Hairballs from Hell*, *A Very MU Christmas*, and *Rhudiprri Prince of Fur #7*. Look for them at your local comic store—and bug the owner if these titles don't show up!

Recent furry sighting—Rocket Raccoon has been making guest appearances in recent issues of *She-Hulk*. Marvel can't seem to get away from furies, try as they might...

Two new titles hitting the stands from Archie Comics are *C.O.W.-Boys of Moo Mesa* (based on the Saturday morning show) and *Sonic the Hedgehog* (based on the Sega video game).

Speaking of Archie: *Bust-A-Gut* is a new humor comic from Laugh-A-Minnit Comics (an imprint of Silver Skull Studios). It features two furry titles in each issue—*The Conservation Corps* (who recently guested in an issue of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Adventures* from Archie) and *The Sophistcats*, a romantic comedy with an all-feline cast. Should be hitting your local comic shop soon.

The first issue of the new furry title *Tail Tails* by Daphne Lage, originally scheduled to appear in *Revelations* from Golden Realms Unlimited, has been delayed indefinitely. Some preliminary copies of *Revelations* will be available at conventions in the New York City area in the near future. Until that time, Daphne Lage is accepting commissions by mail. Her prices are:

\$20.00 for 8 1/2 x 11 B&W inked,
\$30.00 for color
\$25.00 for 11 x 14 B&W inked,
\$40.00 for color

Write to Daphne Lage at 32-19 54th Street, Woodside, Flushing, NY 11377-1927 for more information.

Furry and fantasy artist Kyla Littlejohn is also now accepting commissions. Prices are as follows:

\$15.00 for a pencil sketch on 8 1/2 x 11,
\$25.00 inked
\$35.00 for a pencil sketch on 11 x 14,
\$35.00 inked.

Kyla can be reached at P.O. Box 2313, Cottonwood, AZ 86326, USA.

Just hitting the stands now is *Refractions*, the *Albedo Omnibus*. This high-quality B&W fanzine offers material from Albedo creator Steve Gallucci, as well as his fans, highlighting background

information on the *Erma Felna, E.D.F.* universe. Stories and articles reflect culture, peoples, technology, and arts on many worlds seen in *Albedo*. *Refractions* is published bi-annually, and should be available at a comic shop near you. If not, first bug the owner, or try writing to the editor, *do Refrations*, 5206 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98105-3313 to ask for more information.

From Avi Melman

Japanese animation, more commonly referred to its actual Japanese pronunciation *anime*, has been a strong influence in furry fandom. However, a lot of "furry" anime doesn't make it into the mainstream (at least outside of Japan). This is about to change. Dosu Productions, a non-profit "fan subtitling" group, will be premiering at ConFurence 4 a new OAV (original video animation) series by Project B4, called *KO Seiki BEAST Sanjiaushi*.

KO Seiki BEAST is set in a future time, when violent changes have caused the earth to split in two along the equator. The northern hemisphere became inhabited by "beasts", human-like people who could semi-change into specific animal forms. Many different tribes appeared: tigers, dogs, mermaids, birds, etc. The climate became tropical, too much for humans to stand. In order to survive, [humans] built a climate-controlled flying city called Uranus. The humans, under the leadership of the Czar Master, believed that the beasts were driving them out, and that the only way to regain control of the earth would be to destroy the beasts. The story revolves around four young warriors from three very different tribes, who embark on a quest to unlock the secrets of the super-computer Gaia, and stop the humans from destroying all beasts.

KO Seiki BEAST is a three-part trilogy, with the final episode to be released on October 1st, 1992. All three episodes will be shown subtitled. However, since this is a fan project, copies cannot be purchased from [Dosu Productions].

Numerous back-issues of hard to find furry and underground comics—titles like *Albedo*, *Xanadu*, *Omaha*, *RhudiPrri*, *Xxenophile*, and many others—and fanzines are available from Mailbox Books. Write to Ed Zolna (creator of *Fran an' Maabi*) for a catalog at P.O. Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001.

From Lia Graf

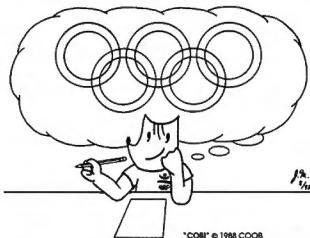
Tigerwing Press says: "We ain't dead yet!" Premiering at ConFurence 4, 2 new Terrie Smith calendars, 2 new Terrie Smith portfolios, *The Boudoir #2*, 2 new Lia Graf portfolios, and a few surprises!

Another sighting: *Furry Fandom* is among the fannish terms defined in Roberta Rogow's new book *FutureSpeak*, a dictionary of fannish acronyms and codewords from over the years. Read it yourself and decide if the Furry definition is complementary or not...

Important Note: If you still haven't gotten your copy of the Reed Waller Benefit dance performance featuring "Omaha" Sternberg, now is the time! We are still accepting orders, but December 31, 1992 will be the last date the tape will be available. The tape is \$17.00 including shipping and handling, is VHS format, and requires a statement that you are at least 18 years old. Proceeds beyond production cost go to Reed to help with his medical expenses. Send orders to the ConFurence address.

Once again, several of the bits of information in this issue were gathered by Jed Martinez of New York. Our thanks to him. In addition to a furry watcher, Jed is a known puzzle fiend. Here's an Olympic-year brain teaser he's included for us... (Solution inside last page)

COBI'S OLYMPIC-SIZED PENCIL PUZZLE



While waiting for his unemployment check, COBI the retired Olympic mascot (from the Summer Games in Barcelona) has decided to take part in some "mental athletics".

Thinking about the official Olympic symbol—the five adjoining rings, representing all the participating continents (with North & South America as one ring)—he conceals an unusual pencil puzzle. With pencil in hand, COBI attempts to draw the Olympic symbol in one continuous line, without retracing any part of it, crossing any lines, or lifting the pencil from the paper... and succeeds!

Match wits with COBI and see if you can do it in the shortest possible time. If they gave out medals for "mental athletics", you just might get the gold!

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: Ads in In-Fur-Nation come in two sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Check should be made out to ConFurence. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

Time Marches On...

ConFurence Four Progress Report

ConFurence Four, In Search Of Ancient Furries, is henceforth dedicated to the memory of Deal Whitley, comic creator and furry artist. At the request of Deal's friends and associates, we will be setting up a charity fund at ConFurence Four for Du Cret School of the Arts, which Deal was attending last year. The idea is to fund a cartooning program at that school, or a series of guest lectures featuring local cartoonists, with money donated in Deal's name. ConFurence will be supporting this fund through several fundraising events, as well as through collection kitties at several locations throughout the con. More information is below...

The Guests

We are happy and proud to say that we are presenting one of **Larry Dixon** and **Mercedes Lackey's** only appearances on the west coast for the entirety of 1993! The books just keep coming from these folks—*Winds of Fate* just hit the stands in hardcover (and shot up the sales charts), along with new books in the *Serrated Edge* Series. Firebird Arts and Music, a major producer of folk music recordings out of Portland, recently began offering *Freedom, Flight, and Fantasy*, a new tape/CD with lyrics by Mercedes, music by **Leslie Fish**, and performances by **Heather Alexander** and others. On the same label, the celtic folk-rock group *Tempest* has released *Serrated Edge*, a project inspired by Mercedes' books. (Firebird can be reached at P.O. Box 14785, Portland, OR 97214.) We're expecting to get a lot of new people at ConFurence Four, just there to see Mercedes and Larry. We'll be more than happy to introduce them to many other interesting stories and characters, too!

And don't forget, in addition to our other special guest, long-time fan and fanzine editor **Ken Fletcher**, ConFurence Four will feature many of the well-known furry names you've come to expect at ConFurence. Names like **Terrie Smith**, **Jim Groat**, **Edd Vick**, **Dan Flahive**, **Phil Morrissey**, **John Cawley**, **Fred Patten**, and plus a host of fresh new talent. But remember, our most important guest is always—you!

The Hotel

We're more than pleased with our new hotel—and they seem pretty happy with us! That's because already lots of good furies are calling up and getting their rooms reserved early. But that means you had better get yours soon too! We're expecting to handily fill up our block by convention time, so don't get left out! Remember, single and double rooms are only \$65.00 a night (same as ConFurence Zero!), triples and quads are only \$75.00 a night, and the Executive Level is only \$85.00 a night with all the extra goodies that go with it (call the hotel for more info on that!). But we have some special goodies planned for all of you! We've mentioned that our hospitality suite has its own private hot tub—but did we mention that the tub also has its own private VCR and monitor? How about some furry films in the jacuzzi, anyone? That plus the big pool, the weight room, the two great restaurants and the bar, and

one entire floor of convention rooms to ourselves. This hotel is something! Call (714) 540-7000 right now and make your reservations right away. And be sure to mention ConFurence Four!

The Dealers' Den

Folks, we'll put it simply—Hurry! Tables in the Dealers' Den have just about sold out, and we expect the rest to go fast! Remember, this hotel has our convention level right across from the underground parking garage, with no steps up or down between them, so set-up and breakdown should be a snap! Here's the deal: Full 6 ft. by 2 1/2 ft. tables sell for only \$50.00 with two full memberships included, and additional tables are only \$20.00. Or, half-tables (3 ft. by 2 1/2 ft.) sell for only \$30.00, with one full membership included. Contact Rod O'Riley at ConFurence for more dealers' information.

In front of the Art Show is our Artist Alley, a less formal (and cheaper!) gathering place for creative people to show off and sell their stuff. Half-tables (same as above) are available free of charge, on a daily *first-come, first reserved* basis only (no reservations). Sign-ups are first thing each morning, so come early and get yours! And speaking of...

The Art Show

This year is going to once again be bigger than ever. We know because the whole room is bigger than any we've had before! That means lots more room in which to display lots more furry drawings, paintings, sculpture, and other media—even computers! Once again, with the standard demand for space at a ConFurence Art Show, not to mention our never-full policy, we're requesting that anyone planning to sell art through our show please register your total number of panel/table spaces with us prior to the convention. Remember, one 4 ft. by 4 ft. horizontal or vertical space is available free with your paid attending or supporting membership, but we need to know if you intend to use it! Additional 4 by 4 ft. spaces are available for only \$5.00 each, but again we need to know how many you'll need, whether it's for art to auction or art to display. Mailed-in art, agent art, or art you bring in yourself are all acceptable, but you must fill out an art registration packet prior to displaying in the show. Contact **John Stanley** at ConFurence for more Art Show and Auction information.

The Costumes

Furry Costumers have an opportunity to show off their stuff at a special SIG meeting on Saturday afternoon, or just wear their costumes around the con. All costumes seen will be photographed, and the photos displayed at the Saturday Night Feed for voting by all those who're at the dinner (hint hint!). Prizes will be awarded for the first and second most popular furry suits, plus maybe some special recognition prizes. If you plan on presenting a costume Saturday, and have any special sound or lighting needs, make sure to get in touch with ConFurence right away!

The Games

No, this is not where the elk and gazelle gather! This is where the players gather, be it for *Justifiers*, or *GURPS*, or *Albedo*, or *Other Suns*, or *Toon*, or whatever! Play the dice to your heart's

content through the night. Contact Shayn Raney at the ConFurence address for more information, or to arrange specific games.

The Filking

With a guest like Mercedes Lackey, we are not going to pass up the opportunity to have a real whiz-bang of a Saturday night filk contest! Those who write or parody songs of a science fiction nature (especially furry!) can sing or read their lyrics, or find some brave soul to do it for them. Then, the audience votes the best song! Songs can be of our special theme, creatures of legend and fantasy, or any topic of furry interest. Following the contest, it's singing as you please into the wee hours of the mornin'. Write to Rod O'Riley at the ConFurence address for more filking info.

The Machines

And welcome to it! Whether your bit is computer games, graphics, animation, networking, or virtual reality role playing, you'll find plenty of kindred here! Displays and live network ties will be available at ConFurence, so bring your imagination and your curiosity.



The Happenings—

The Cabaret

Once again we'll be presenting our Saturday Night Cabaret, which was so successful as a fund raiser for Reed Walker last year. This year we're raising funds for the Du Cret School of the Arts, in memory of our friend Deal Whitley. Tickets will be available for a separate charge at Registration—18 and over only, please! Come spend the night with us and see the furry, the funny, and the truly outrageous!

The Food

As before, Friday night we'll be presenting our special all-you-can-eat ice cream social, included free with your membership. Come hob with the nobs and chill for the ill. But, Saturday, it's an all new story—PZZA! Stacks and stacks of your favorite toppings and drinks, all at a modest price-per-slice. Tickets for this special event go on sale Friday, so get yours early—you know how fans can polish off pizza!

The Furies

Once again you'll see our popular round-robin style SIG (special interest group) meetings, dedicated to comics, art, writing, universe creating, computers, networks, and many other topics. Special SIGs will be dedicated to our special theme, In Search Of Ancient Furies. That is, furies in myth, legend, and history of many cultures, from dragons, unicorns, gryphons, satyrs and everything else you can think of. We'll have another special SIG meeting for fans of legendary furry characters—be that Coyote, the Monkey King, Reynard, or what have you. Also, Four will see the return of the popular species SIGs, for people with an interest in particular types of animals. We've got club meetings exclusively for each of you!

The Folks

Each of our special guests will have a special solo meeting to meet with their fans, answer questions, and tell us everything about becoming a name—except what they don't want to tell us! And, our guests will be available at their own tables for autographs and other socializing things.

The Film

Video, actually. The amount of anthropomorphic material available, from movies and TV around the world, has exploded lately! And we plan to take advantage of it. Plan to see an amazing spread of movies, episodes, shorts, and other goodies—some you may not believe! If you have suggestions or stuff to offer, get in touch with Jim Lomax at the ConFurence address.

The Help We Need...

Our Sponsors

Sponsors are the wonderful people who help keep ConFurence going by giving just a little extra bit (or a lot extra bit!) of financial help. This is money for transporting, lodging, and feeding our special guests, as well as off-setting complimentary memberships. How can you become a sponsor? Just contribute a minimum of \$20.00 over and above your membership fee, up to \$99.00. Indicate which of our special guests this money is to help toward, or just mark it "general fund"—we'll split it among all of them. More importantly, what do you get for being a sponsor? Sponsors are the only folks (besides committee and guests) allowed in the VIP Lounge, a special place set aside where folks can relax away from the hubbub of the con. Guests and sponsors can attend a

free sandwich-feast on Sunday evening, after the con. And, sponsors get some special prices on materials from the ConFurence store. And, sponsors get—our unending gratitude! (Not to mention, their name in the souvenir book!)

Sooooooper Sponsors!

Super Sponsors are people who really want to help out the convention—and think they deserve something special in return. Super sponsors are wonderful people willing to contribute \$100.00 or more above their membership costs toward our special guests. Super Sponsors get all the same neat stuff as other Sponsors, plus an added bonus of a personalized commission from a famous furry artist! (Write for a list of participating artists.) Don't have \$100.00 sitting around handy? Make installments! That's right, we'll take two payments of \$50.00, or four payments of \$25.00—it still counts you as a Super Sponsor!

Our Souvenir Book

The ConFurence Souvenir Book is one of the high points of any ConFurence; a compact collection of Furry reflections and artwork, with no convention biz to clutter it up (that stuff all goes in the Pocket Program). Once again, our convention/book theme for this year is In Search of Ancient Furies.

Art Work: We need black & white anthropomorphic art in an 8 1/2 by 11 inch vertical format, on our convention theme, a tribute to Deal Whitley and his characters, or a general furry theme. With Mercedes Lackey as our special guest, we'll open the doors for elfen-types and medieval folks in art as well, so long as furry themes are also included. We are also accepting spot-illos. Please send only camera-ready photocopies (no originals!).

Articles: We need writings of 500 words or less, on any aspect of our convention themes. Reflections on dragons, unicorns, grhyphons, satyrs, lycanthropes, or famous creatures of legend; historical perspectives; insider knowledge; or maybe legends we may not have heard of. Remember—give references, and give credit where due!

All printed art or articles will be credited to their creators, and all rights returned to those creators. ConFurence retains the right to accept or refuse any contribution, to correct spelling and grammar on articles, and to alter artwork slightly to fit in available space. Our deadline is early January, so get those fingers moving!

Furries on the Wing

ConFurence now has its own official travel agency, Ladera Travel of Southern California. They've specialized for years in getting good rates for travel to and from SF cons, and now that includes ours! Contact Rick Foss or Robin (his trusty assistant) at (800) 624-6679 from outside California, or (310) 640-0527 inside California.

The next In-Fur-Nation hits the mails in early January of '93. Featured in the ConFurence Chronicle will be all-important last-minute information—Like how to get here!

Until then, Keep the Tail Bushy!

ADVERTISEMENT

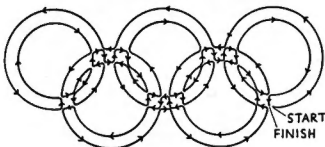
Twilight Agency

Not what you expect.

copyright & trademark 1992 Fey Graphic

For more information, go to the Tigerwing Press table at ConFurence.

Solution to "COBT'S OLYMPIC-SIZED PENCIL PUZZLE"



This is one of several possible ways you can draw the Olympic symbol in one continuous line, without retracing a single area, crossing paths, or lifting the pencil from the paper. Can you come up with other solutions?

Puzzle by Jed Martinez



CONFURENCE FOUR — Here, Now, De-Tails:

WHEN:

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
January 22, 23, 24, 1993

WHERE:

Red Lion Hotel, Orange County Airport
3050 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
\$65.00/night, single or double rooms.
Call (714) 540-7000 for reservations, and be sure to
mention ConFurence Four

HOW MUCH:

\$20.00 for a full membership, until 12/01/92
\$25.00 for a full membership received between
12/01/92 and 01/15/93
\$30.00 for a full membership bought at-the-door
(after 01/15/93)
\$10.00 for a supporting membership, anytime
(Gets all mailings, including
In-Fur-Nation, and the Souvenir Book)

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FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION

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ConFurence

Our Special Offer: \$17.00 full attending membership, for
previous ConFurence members only (please include your
previous membership number with your check!)

Sponsorship: A minimum contribution of \$20.00 above
your membership.

Super Sponsorship: A minimum contribution of \$100.00
above your membership, singly or in multiple payments of
\$50.00 or \$25.00.

WRITE TO:

ConFurence
P.O. Box 1958
Garden Grove CA 92642-1958
Phone: (714) 530-1312

WHO ARE WE?

Mark Merlino, Rod O'Riley, John A. Stanley, Larry
Adams, Shayn Raney, Jazmyn, Wolf, Henry Brown Jr.,
Jim Lomax, David Bliss, Ken Neilsen, Leon Self, Farix,
John Cawley, Pete Miller, Vicky Levitin, Kay Shapiro,
Don Barrett.